

PULLMAN STANDARD CO. PLANT
(Trinity Industries Plant)
Birmingham Industrial District
401 North 24th St.
Bessemer
Jefferson County
Alabama

HAER No. AL-31

HAER
ALA
37-BES,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

ADDENDUM TO
PULLMAN STANDARD COMPANY PLANT
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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Location: The plant gate is located at 401 North 24th Street, Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama.

Ownership: Trinity Industries

Date of Construction: 1929+

Project Information: This report is based upon written documentation donated by the Birmingham Historical Society, reformatted to HABS/HAER guidelines.

Description: A brick office building is located in the northwestern portion of the site. The other major buildings are constructed of metal and have direct access into the main shop building for manufacturing and transportation purposes. The site also contains a large rail storage area. Further investigation of the site is required to determine the historic significance, as well as the condition, of the structures located there.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

In 1929 Pullman Standard, then one of the nation's largest producers of railway cars, chose Bessemer as the location for its southern plant. The plant was located on the original sites of the Bessemer Furnaces, which were in operation from 1889 to the 1920s, and the Bessemer Rolling Mills, which were operational from 1887 to the 1920s. The Pullman Standard Plant acquired machinery and materials from the old Chickasaw Shipbuilding Company, which had been built in conjunction with U.S. Steel's wartime expansions at Fairfield, and formally opened on October 1, 1929. By January 1930 the Bessemer plant had built and delivered 600 box cars to National Railways of Mexico. Pullman was later to become Bessemer's largest employee. The Pullman Standard Plant was acquired by Wheelabrator-Frye in 1980. Its operations as Pullman Standard were closed in 1981.

Trinity Industries, which purchased Pullman, is currently operating facilities at the former Pullman Standard Plant. The company continues to make and modify rail cars, but its production is considerably reduced.

Sources Consulted

Site Visit with Jim Bynum, 7/19/91

Site Visit with Birmingham Southern Railway officials, 9/9/91

White, Marjorie, The Birmingham District, pp. 107-109